



MISSOURI BICENTENNIAL CHESSBOARD

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Adrian's Island Park
Jefferson City, Missouri.

Bartlett & West



MISSOURI BICENTENNIAL CHESSBOARD:

CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF STATEHOOD

On August 10, 2021, people around the state will commemorate Missouri's bicentennial. As part of these celebrations, a life-sized granite chessboard will be unveiled at Adrian's Island in Jefferson City, Missouri. Surrounding the board are 32 images representing the contributions that Missourians have made in varied fields including agriculture, music, literature, and sports. The board also celebrates significant historical moments and personalities from the state's history, including President Harry S. Truman, Dred and Harriet Scott's courageous efforts to gain their freedom, and the innovations of George Washington Carver.

In 2020, I became part of the Missouri Bicentennial Commission, which was created by Governor Mike Parson in a 2018 Executive Order. Carrie Tergin, the Jefferson City Mayor and Co-Chair of the Missouri Bicentennial Commission, wanted to build a bridge to Adrian's Island to develop the land into a public park. I suggested adding a life-size chessboard to the park that would allow students to learn about the state's history while enjoying themselves outdoors.

The project was unanimously approved. I worked with Dr. Michael Sweeney and the State Historical Society of Missouri (SHSMO) to select pictures of the state's history that would be engraved on the chessboard. Each image appears in this brochure, accompanied by information written by the staff of the SHSMO about the importance of the moments and individuals featured on the board. The World Chess Hall of Fame and the Saint Louis Chess Club funded the project and their staff designed and produced this booklet.

The chessboard also features key contributions from young Missourians. Andrew Dowden, a mem-

ber of Troop 6 in Jefferson City, engraved the squares as his service project to become an Eagle Scout. He created them using an Epilog laser engraver from the Sinquefield Invention Lab at the Lake of the Ozarks Scout Reservation. The Lab has the mission to facilitate hands-on education and invention of new ideas and technologies, while utilizing problem-solving skills, creativity, and imagination in a team environment. It features a number of tools to foster creativity, including 3D printers, and laser engravers. Additionally, Dowden created the concrete chessboard, which required a concrete base. Each of the squares was installed with the help of Scouts and Scouters. Maya Thomas, a member of Troop 242 in Columbia, created the benches surrounding the board from 200-year-old Missouri oak wood as part of her Eagle Scout project.

The project is also a nod to the Show Me State's rich chess history. Saint Louis was one of three American cities to host the first World Chess Championship, held in 1886 between Wilhelm Steinitz and Johannes Zukertort. Today, the Saint Louis Chess Campus, which comprises the Saint Louis Chess Club and the World Chess Hall of Fame, brings the best American players to Saint Louis for national championships and the strongest players from around the world for tournaments like the Sinquefield Cup and Cairns Cup. Their efforts have also led the United States Congress to declare Saint Louis the nation's chess capital in 2014.

I am proud to be a part of this project that combines two of my family's passions: the Scouts BSA and chess. I hope that this chessboard will offer Missourians entertainment and education for many years to come.

Dr. Jeanne Cairns Sinquefield

The Gateway Arch in
Saint Louis, Missouri.



MISSOURI 1821-2021

August 10, 2021, marks the 200th anniversary of Missouri becoming the 24th state to enter the United States. A state with many different regional cultures, geographies, and industries, each Missouri community, county, and region has a story to tell about its people, their history, their commerce, and their culture. By celebrating the accomplishments and diversity of all these regions, we help create a better understanding of our one Missouri and the ties that bind us together.

Under the Missouri 2021 banner, the State Historical Society of Missouri (SHSMO) worked a truly statewide commemoration that incorporated both rural and urban communities in projects, programs, and events that contribute to a better shared understanding of the State's geographic and cultural diversity as well as the similarities that bring us together as Missourians.

This important work began in 2013 when the 97th Missouri General Assembly, issued House Concurrent Resolution 7 (HCR7) tasking SHSMO to develop 'plans, ideas, and proposals to commemorate and celebrate' the Missouri Bicentennial and to provide guidance and direction to a statewide effort to promote and celebrate the state of Missouri's rich and complex history.'

This role was fitting for SHSMO, a trustee of the State of Missouri since 1899, as the organization's mission is to collect, preserve, publish, exhibit, and make available material related to all aspects and periods of Missouri history. SHSMO also seeks to generate interest in and appreciation of the rich cultural heritage of the state and its people through education and outreach.

Dr. Michael Sweeney



MISS



OURI

1821-2021



George Catlin
Portrait of Tal-Lee, Member of the Osage Tribe
1866

Courtesy of The State Historical Society of Missouri

NATIVE AMERICANS

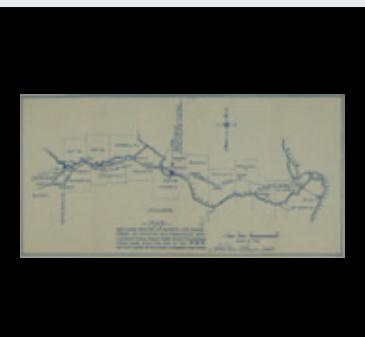
One of the earliest Native American sites in Missouri is of Oneota origin and dates from 1250 CE. The Oneota were woodland people who originated from the Great Lakes region. Their villages and camps were established along tributary streams and rivers of the upper reaches of the Mississippi River. Archaeological remains of double-ditched earthwork and other artifacts of the ancestral Indigenous peoples of Missouri can be seen at the Annie and Abel Van Meter State Park in Miami, Missouri. The Oneota were the ancestors of the Ioway, Otoe, and Missouria and are the people who built the famous city of Cahokia, Illinois. Other Indigenous Nations who lived in present-day Missouri at the time of first European contact included the Osage, Illini, Quapaw, and Chickasaw tribes.



Maker unknown
Lewis and Clark Trail Map
Date unknown
Courtesy of The State Historical Society of Missouri

LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL MAP

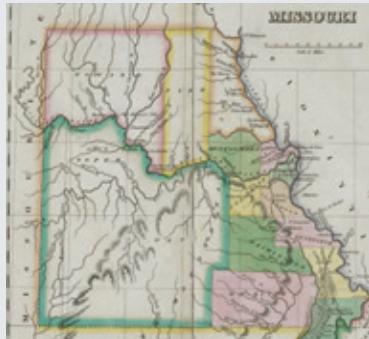
In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson oversaw the purchase of the Louisiana Territory from France. The purchase doubled the size of the country, leaving Jefferson interested in learning more about the region. He appointed Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to lead The Corps of Discovery on a two-year expedition to survey the area, make diplomatic ties with American Indians and to locate the Northwest Passage water route to the Pacific Ocean. In 1804, Lewis and Clark and their large crew left Saint Louis in a 55-foot keelboat and headed westward up the Missouri River. Shoshone Indian and translator Sacagawea, who was familiar with the terrain of the Rocky Mountains, joined the crew at Hidatsa villages during the winter of 1804-1805. Sacagawea was six months pregnant at the time and gave birth to a son along the way. The party would eventually reach present-day Astoria, Washington, discovering the hypothetical Northwest Passage to the Pacific Ocean.



John Brush
Boone's Lick Road
1908
Courtesy of The State Historical Society of Missouri

WESTWARD EXPANSION

While settlers like Daniel Boone made the Missouri region their home before the Louisiana Purchase, the early-to-mid 19th century saw a surge in Missouri's population following statehood. As people settled in the land west of Saint Louis—particularly along the Missouri River Valley—they also began to link up to migratory and trade paths that took them further into American and Mexican territory, on the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails. In the period before and after the Civil War, hundreds of thousands of pioneers crossed the High Plains around the Missouri River to the Columbia River on the Pacific coast looking for free land and the possibility of finding gold in California.



Henry Charles Carey
Geographical Map of Missouri
1822
Courtesy of The State Historical Society of Missouri

MISSOURI STATEHOOD

On August 10, 1821, Missouri became the 24th state admitted into the United States. The United States Congress allowed for the admission of Missouri as a result of the Missouri Compromise of 1820, a decision that would ultimately lead to the American Civil War. The vote was close in both the House and Senate, with all opposition coming from representatives from free states. Missouri was the first state entirely west of the Mississippi River to be admitted to the Union. Around the time of statehood, the 1820 U.S. Census had listed Missouri with an approximate population of 66,586. The first Missouri State Capitol was located in St. Charles between 1821 and 1826 before moving to a permanent Capitol building in Jefferson City.



Charles Trefts
Columns on Francis Quadrangle, University of Missouri
c. 1936
Courtesy of The State Historical Society of Missouri

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

In 1839, the Geyer Act in Missouri created the first land grant state university west of the Mississippi. The University of Missouri is characterized by its groundbreaking research and is the home of the world's first journalism school. In 1963, the University of Missouri System was formally established, bringing together the campuses of University of Missouri-Columbia, University of Missouri-Rolla (now Missouri University of Science and Technology), University of Missouri-Kansas City, and University of Missouri-St. Louis. The Columns at the University of Missouri on Francis Quadrangle mark the spot of Mizzou's first campus building, Academic Hall, which was destroyed by a fire in 1892. They stand as a symbol of the university's history and strength.



Cook & Gormley
Mule
Date unknown
Courtesy of The State Historical Society of Missouri

MULES

The Missouri Mule is a symbol of the Show-Me State's agricultural beginnings. Mules were introduced to the state in the 1820s and became popular with farmers and settlers because of their strength. The typical Missouri Mule is a cross between a mare of a draft breed and a mammoth jack. This breed produced a stout, strong animal that is more easily managed and more agile than the draft horse. Missourians began selling mules to the Cotton Belt, as well as the lead, coal, and logging industries. They were used in farming, to pull pioneer wagons, and later helped carry supplies and troops during both World Wars. In 1995, Governor Mel Carnahan signed a bill naming the Missouri Mule as the official state animal.



Maximilian E. Schmidt
Missouri Pacific Engine No. 859
Date unknown
Courtesy of The State Historical
Society of Missouri

RAILROADS

Investors broke ground for the construction of the Pacific Railroad in Saint Louis on July 4, 1851, and construction was completed after the Hannibal-St. Joseph Railroad was finished in 1860. The predecessor of the Missouri Pacific Railroad (MoPac), the Pacific Railroad was the first railway built in Missouri and one of the first railroads west of the Mississippi River. The line through Kansas City was completed in 1872 after being interrupted by the Civil War. Other rail lines included the one to Rolla, which reached the city in 1861 and was halted by the onset of the Civil War. Known as the Southwest Branch of the Pacific Railroad, it would later come under the control of the Saint Louis and San Francisco Railway and eventually the Burlington Northern Railroad.



Holcomb, after a photograph
by J.H. Fitzgibbon
Dred Scott
1857
Courtesy of The State Historical
Society of Missouri

DRED AND HARRIET SCOTT

Dred and Harriet Scott were a married couple enslaved to a physician in Saint Louis, Dr. John Emerson. When the doctor died, the couple tried to buy their freedom from Emerson's widow. She refused and the Scotts took their case to a Saint Louis Circuit Court. The couple asked the court for their freedom on the basis that they were taken by their owner to live in a non-slave state and territory (Illinois and Wisconsin). The court ruled in favor of the Scotts' freedom due to a Missouri statute that any person taken to a free territory automatically could not be re-enslaved upon returning to a slave state. Their freedom was short-lived when the slave owner's widow appealed the decision and the case made its way to the Missouri Supreme Court, which reversed the decision of the lower court. The case eventually was heard by the U.S. Supreme Court, which gave its landmark decision that upheld the Missouri Supreme Court. The high court ruled that the Missouri Compromise legislation was unconstitutional. This meant that Congress had no power to prevent the expansion of slavery.

The Dred Scott decision caused a huge public outcry among abolitionists as tensions mounted further between the North and South, adding to the fuel that would ignite the beginnings of the Civil War. After 10 years of court proceedings, Dred and Harriet Scott would eventually be set free, not by the courts, but ironically, by the son of a previous owner, Taylor Blow, who gave them their freedom.



MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

The Missouri Botanical Garden was founded in 1859 and is the nation's oldest botanical garden in continuous operation. It boasts 79 acres of horticultural display, with a 14-acre Japanese garden, Henry Shaw's original 1850 home, and a collection of the world's largest rare and endangered orchids. The Garden is listed as a National Historic Landmark and serves as a center for science and education.

Charles Trefts

Missouri Botanical Garden

Date unknown

Courtesy of The State Historical Society of Missouri



Gerald M assie

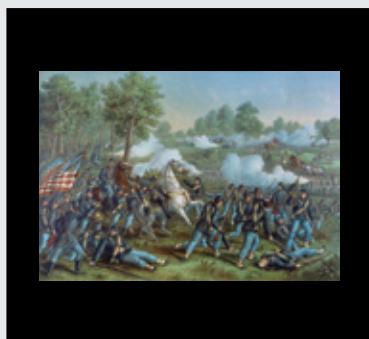
Pony Express Monument

Date unkno wn

Courtesy of The State Historical Society of Missouri

THE PONY EXPRESS

Stagecoach transportation of mail between Missouri and California was common before 1860 and often took a month or longer to reach its final destination. The Missouri freight company of Russell, Majors, and Waddell proposed the idea of a more rapid form of mail delivery between Missouri and California, which involved using relays of lightweight horse riders to deliver mail and messages. The company purchased 500 horses, built 190 stations at 25-mile intervals, and had 80 riders who weighed no more than 125 pounds. On April 3, 1860, the first rider left St. Joseph carrying mail from the east to Sacramento. Riders would typically travel 75 miles before handing mail off to another rider and mail took about 10 days to deliver by Pony Express. The invention of the telegraph and other new forms of communication put the Pony Express out of business 18 months later.



Kurz and Al son

The Battle of Wilson's Creek

c. 1893

Courtesy of the Library of Congress

THE CIVIL WAR MILITARY

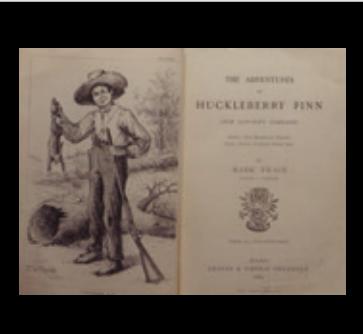
Convention delegates called for Missouri to act as a neutral state to mediate between the Union and the Confederacy in an effort to avoid war. Despite the will of the majority of voters, Missouri Governor Claiborne Fox Jackson worked secretly for secession. He rejected President Abraham Lincoln's call for troops from Missouri and communicated with Confederate leaders to prepare the state militia for conflict and to seize weapons at the Saint Louis Arsenal. A series of battles and skirmishes would take place on Missouri soil, including the Battle of Lexington, the Battle of Westport, the Battle of Pilot Knob, and the Battle of Wilson's Creek.



Photographer unknown
William T. "Bloody Bill" Anderson
c. 1864
Courtesy of The State Historical Society of Missouri

CIVIL WAR GUERILLAS

Kansas had long been a target of attacks and violence over the issue of slavery and groups on both sides fought each other throughout the 1850s during the "Bleeding Kansas" period. The strife grew more intense when Union forces imprisoned the women associated with the Confederate guerilla group under the leadership of William Quantrill. The women were placed in a makeshift jail in Kansas City when it suddenly collapsed from overcrowding, killing five women and injuring others. Among the dead was the sister of William T. "Bloody Bill" Anderson, a member of Quantrill's Raiders and one of the deadliest pro-Confederate guerilla leaders in the Civil War. In retaliation, Anderson, Quantrill and 450 Missouri Bushwhackers rode their horses to the Free-State town of Lawrence, Kansas, killing around 150 men and boys to avenge the previous imprisonment of their family members in Kansas City.



Edward Winsor Kemble
Mark Twain's The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
1884
Courtesy of The State Historical Society of Missouri

THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN

First published in the United Kingdom in 1884, and then in the United States a year later, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is considered Mark Twain's masterpiece and one of the most important novels of the post-Civil War period. Twain's companion book, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* was published before *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* in 1872. Both books are noted for their use of vernacular English and colorful descriptions of the people from Twain's hometown of Hannibal and places along the Mississippi River.



John Stark & Sons
Scott Joplin's "Maple Leaf Rag"
1911
Courtesy of The State Historical Society of Missouri

SCOTT JOPLIN

Scott Joplin, considered the "King of Ragtime Writers," was a musician and composer. He was born around 1868 in Texas but moved to Sedalia in 1894. While in Sedalia, he joined the Queen City Cornet Band and performed in local clubs and traveled the country with various musical groups. He became a popular musician in the Missouri region, especially for his famous song, "Maple Leaf Rag." Joplin played an essential role in the development of ragtime music that was played in "ragged" or off-the-beat time. This rhythm came out of African American work songs, gospel tunes, and dance. Joplin may have picked up ragtime music while traveling to Saint Louis, which was becoming a major center in the genre. Joplin wrote 44 original rags for the piano, a ragtime ballet, and two operas.



FARMING

Farming has always been a cornerstone of Missouri life. The first farms in the state were established around 1725 by settlers in the Ste. Genevieve area. By the 19th century, Missouri's agricultural industry was rapidly growing, resulting in the establishment of the Missouri State Board of Agriculture in 1865. Today, the Missouri Department of Agriculture oversees agriculture policy and assistance. Agriculture remains one of Missouri's chief economic industries and one of the top performing agricultural economies in the nation.

Photographer unkown
Farmer and Young Boy Working the Field
c. 1900

Courtesy of Missouri Historical Society



MINING

Mining has played a crucial role in Missouri's history. In the early 19th century, large-scale iron mining and smelting began in southeast Missouri. From the 1860s until the 1960s, the northern part of the county around Bonne Terre and Park Hills was one of the world's leading producers of lead, and coal mining became important in the southwest and northern regions of Missouri. The state continued to be a source for zinc, copper, and limestone throughout the years.

Photographer unkown
Cumberland Miners

Date unkown
Courtesy of The State Historical Society of Missouri



Emil B. Oehl

Festival Hall, Saint Louis World's Fair
1904

Courtesy of Missouri Historical Society

SAINT LOUIS WORLD'S FAIR

The Saint Louis World's Fair, officially named the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, took place in 1904 and celebrated the centennial of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase. The World's Fair brought in close to 20 million people to the fairgrounds, which became present-day Forest Park. Exhibits by more than 60 countries and 43 U.S. states gave global exposure to advancements in technology, like the wireless telephone, and the introduction of new foods, such as the ice cream cone.



Photographer unkown
George Washington Carver
Date unknown
Courtesy of The State Historical Society of Missouri

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

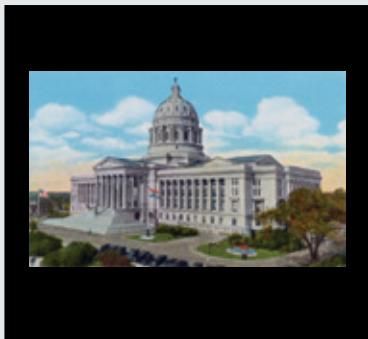
Born enslaved in Diamond, Missouri, George Washington Carver (1864–1943) became a world-renowned botanist who made important discoveries in agriculture. Carver attended an agricultural college in Ames, Iowa, and went on to work with Booker T. Washington at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama where his research helped poor farmers change their farming techniques and improve their diets. He highlighted the idea of planting peanuts to upgrade the quality of soil, which had been depleted after years of planting cotton.



Photographer unknown
Women's Suffrage League
1916
Courtesy of Missouri Historical Society

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

The first group in Missouri to be established for the purpose of women's suffrage was formed in Saint Louis. Virginia Minor co-founded the Woman Suffrage Association and served as its president. In an 1869 petition to the Missouri General Assembly, Minor called for the expansion of suffrage to women. While the petition was unsuccessful with lawmakers in Jefferson City, the group laid the groundwork for a long-fought suffrage movement to guarantee the right to vote. In 1916, over 3,000 women lined 12 blocks in downtown Saint Louis, dressed in white, wearing yellow sashes, and carrying yellow umbrellas outside of the National Democratic Convention. Referred to as the "Golden Lane," supporters stood silent, demonstrating that their voices were not being heard. In response, the delegates at the convention added a plank in support of the suffragist movement to their party's platform.



Curt Teich & Co.
Missouri State Capitol
1917
Courtesy of The State Historical Society of Missouri

MISSOURI STATE CAPITOL

Construction on the first Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City took place between 1823 and 1826, but a fire destroyed the building in 1837, prompting the need to rebuild in 1840. Fire would become a problem again in 1911, when a lightning bolt struck the dome of the Capitol, rapidly spreading flames throughout the interior. The present Missouri State Capitol was built in the Roman Renaissance style between 1913 and 1917. The structure stands on 285 concrete piers and spans across nearly 3 acres of land on the same spot as its predecessor, overlooking the Missouri River.



Charles Trefts
Cape Girardeau Steamboat along the Mississippi
1920

Courtesy of The State Historical Society of Missouri

STEAMBOATS

In the 1800s, steamboats carried both cargo and passengers along the nation's rivers and waterways. The steamboat "Independence" departed Saint Louis in 1819 and navigated up the Missouri River, becoming the first steamboat to travel the interior part of the state. In the same year, an expedition was sent up the Missouri River led by Major Stephen H. Long to study plants, animals, and geology in the central plains. The expedition offered some of the earliest descriptions of communities along the Missouri River from St. Charles to Franklin.



Vinnorma Shaw
Missouri Centennial Exposition and State Fair Poster

Aug. 8 - 20, 1921

Courtesy of The State Historical Society of Missouri

MISSOURI CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION

The 1921 Missouri Centennial Exposition and State Fair celebrated the 100th anniversary of Missouri's statehood and the State Fair's 20th anniversary. The exposition included pageants about Missouri history, games, and even a commemorative half dollar. Missourians across the state were encouraged to commemorate the centennial year-round.



B. B. Brothers Photographic Studio
Jazz Band
c. 1925

Courtesy of Missouri Historical Society

JAZZ

Missouri is home to rich musical traditions, especially Kansas City style jazz. William "Count" Basie moved to Kansas City with his hard-swinging, bluesy transition style when he signed with Bennie Moten's Kansas City Orchestra in 1929. In the 1930s, Kansas City native Charlie "Bird" Parker also hit the scene with his invention of bebop on the saxophone. Kansas City jazz has gone on to not only influence the lives of Missourians across the state, but also the national stage of musical traditions.



Photographer unknown
Charles Lindbergh with the Spirit of St. Louis Airplane
1927
Courtesy of The State Historical Society of Missouri

THE SPIRIT OF ST. LOUIS

In the 1920s, ideas of a transatlantic flight were not uncommon. Charles Lindbergh, backed by important Saint Louis business owners, decided to pursue the flight. On the morning of May 20, 1927, Lindbergh began his journey flying solo across the Atlantic Ocean. His plane, the "Spirit of St. Louis," departed from New York and flew along the coast of Newfoundland and over Ireland. He arrived in Paris around 10:24 p.m. on May 21, 1927, and was welcomed as a hero.



H. L. Gambr
Bagnell Dam
c. 1937
Courtesy of Missouri Historical Society

BAGNELL DAM AND THE LAKE OF THE OZARKS

The Lake of the Ozarks is one of the largest human-made lakes in the United States and is a direct result of the construction of the Bagnell Dam by the Union Electric Light & Power Company of St. Louis (now AmerenUE). Construction of Bagnell Dam began in 1929 to draw hydroelectric power from the Osage River and was completed in 1931. The reservoir has over 1,150 miles of shoreline. The Lake of the Ozarks has created a thriving tourist community with millions of dollars brought in by tourism year-round.



Arthur Witman
Premature V-J Day Celebration On Olive Street, St. Louis, MO
August 14, 1945
Courtesy of The State Historical Society of Missouri

WORLD WAR II

The United States entered World War II after the Japanese bombing of the American fleet in Pearl Harbor in 1941. Missourians fought on nearly every front of the war with around 450,000 Missouri residents serving in the military. Missouri soldiers were stationed in Hawaii when Pearl Harbor came under attack, landed on the beaches of Normandy, and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. Each campaign of the war involved Missourians overseas and those who served at home. The formal end of the war took place on board the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay in 1945 when Japanese officers offered unconditional surrender to General Douglas MacArthur.



Greta Kempton
Truman Family Portrait
c. 1950
Courtesy of The State Historical Society of Missouri

HARRY TRUMAN

Born in Lamar, Missouri, Harry Truman was sworn in as the nation's 33rd U.S. President in 1945 following the unexpected death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Truman faced many challenges during his presidency, including tensions during the "Cold War" and the decision to drop the atomic bombs on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. President Truman is known for creating the "Marshall Plan" and the "Truman Doctrine." The former aimed to rebuild the devastated economies of Western Europe, while the latter plan attempted to contain the spread of communism by supporting fledgling democracies. In 1948, Truman was re-elected over Republican Governor Thomas Dewey with 303 electoral votes. After office, Truman resettled in his home of Independence.



Missouri Rural st
Grand Champion Barrow
October 27, 1956
Courtesy of The State Historical Society of Missouri

LIVESTOCK

Like agriculture, livestock is a significant aspect of Missouri life. During the 19th century, Missouri livestock breeders gained recognition at national and international expositions. As a result, the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia was born to showcase livestock and important crops. In the bicentennial year of 2021, Missouri livestock has an inventory of 4.25 million cattle, 3 million hogs and pigs, 73,000 sheep, and 200,000 equines.



Arthur Witman
The Gateway Arch
1965
Courtesy of The State Historical Society of Missouri

THE GATEWAY ARCH

In 1947, a two-staged design competition was launched for a new riverfront attraction in Saint Louis. The idea for a memorial was inspired by a need to revive the area because of the economic stress caused by the Great Depression. Hundreds of artists competed, but it was Eero Saarinen, a Finish-American architect, who won the competition with his sleek arch design that symbolized the "Gateway to the West." The construction of the arch was completed in 1965.



Arthur Witman

**Gemini 12 Space Capsule being Built
at McDonnell Aircraft Corporation**

1966

Courtesy of The State Historical
Society of Missouri

SPACE INDUSTRY

Saint Louis-based McDonnell Aircraft played a significant role in the race to the moon during the 1960s. The company engineered the space capsules for NASA's Project Mercury and Project Gemini programs. In Southwest Missouri, Neosho's rocket engine plant owned by North American Aviation's Rocketdyne division, produced engines for NASA's Apollo missions, particularly the Saturn V used on the famous Apollo moon landing in 1969. As the space race came to a close, the plant changed owners and closed in 2015.



Photographer unkown
St. Louis Blues Stanley Cup Win Parade

2019

Courtesy of The State Historical
Society of Missouri

SPORTS

Missouri athletic teams have been bringing people together and producing successful seasons and championships in a variety of sports, along with record-breaking standout players. The Kansas City Monarchs, charter members of the Negro National League, won pennants from 1923 to 1925 and in 1929. The St. Louis Cardinals have won 11 World Series championships and the Kansas City Royals have won two World Series titles. In Missouri football, the Kansas City Chiefs won three AFL championships and two Super Bowls 50 years apart in 1970 and 2020, while the St. Louis Rams won a Super Bowl in 2000 before transferring to Los Angeles. After 52 seasons in the National Hockey League, the St. Louis Blues won their first Stanley Cup championship against the Boston Bruins in 2019.



Missouri Bicentennial Logo
2021

Courtesy of The State Historical
Society of Missouri

MISSOURI BICENTENNIAL

Missouri commemorated its 200th anniversary of statehood on August 10, 2021. Missouri became the 24th state to enter the United States. In 2013, the 97th Missouri General Assembly issued House Concurrent Resolution 7 tasking The State Historical Society of Missouri to plan ways to commemorate and celebrate Missouri's rich and diverse culture, both past and present.

Contributors to Chessboard Project



ANDREW DOWDEN

LIFE SCOUT,
HELIAS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Andrew Dowden is a Life Scout and a student at Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City, MO. He has visited the Lake of the Ozarks Scouts Reservation, home of the Sinquefield Invention Lab, every summer. He engraved each of the images that appears on the border of the chessboard. Of the Scouts BSA, Dowden states, "I fell in love with scouting as a small kid. I love being outdoors and do not spend much time inside during the summer. I have a strong passion for getting work done and always working hard at whatever I'm doing. I chose to do this project because I thought it would be challenging and would stand out from the others I had first considered completing. I hope to enjoy playing chess on this chessboard for my entire life and look forward to sharing this project with my family and friends as well as people from around the state."

Creating the engravings for the chessboard took several weeks using an Epilog Laser at the Scouts BSA Sinquefield Invention Campus. The construction of the 14-foot-square chessboard involved digging and pouring a concrete base and attaching the 64 squares of the board and the 32 engravings around the edge. The project took months of work, many volunteers, and coordination with the park at Adrian's Island. Adrian's Island is located in front of the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City.



MAYA THOMAS

LIFE SCOUT,
KIRKSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Maya Thomas is a Life Scout who led a team in completing benches for Adrian's Island as part of her journey to attain the rank of Eagle Scout. Maya is a junior at Kirksville High School in Kirksville, Missouri. Thomas joined Scouts BSA in February 2019 when Columbia, Missouri's Troop 3242 was founded. She remains an active part of this troop even though she is now also part of Kirksville's Troop 3404. Of all the adventures she's been on with her troop, the friendship and camaraderie are what she enjoys the most. Since her troop had no older scouts to model scouting's famous patrol method, Scoutmaster Dr. Julie Stansfield provided an incredible example of patience and leadership that Maya respects.

The benches for the chessboard are made of approximately 200-year-old Missouri oak. Old, large trees which had been growing for 100 years were cut down to build a barn in 1910. This year, the old petrified wood was cut and planed into 2' by 4' by volunteers. The legs of the benches are made from concrete using a mold. This project has provided the perfect capstone opportunity to showcase all that Maya has learned during her time in Scouts.

MISSOURI BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

On October 12, 2018, Governor Michael L. Parson signed Executive Order 18-07 creating the Missouri Bicentennial Commission. The purpose of the Commission is to “aid the State Historical Society of Missouri in its charge to plan for and implement the commemoration of the Missouri bicentennial and to further state efforts to honor the State of Missouri and its rich history and heritage on the occasion of its bicentennial.” Retired Missouri Senator Ronald F. Richard of Joplin and Mayor Carrie Tergin of Jefferson City co-chair the Missouri Bicentennial Commission.

SINQUEFIELD INVENTION CAMPUS

The Sinquefield Invention Campus is a permanent facility at a Lake of the Ozarks Scout Reservation. The Sinquefield Invention Campus consists of four areas: Invention Lab, Program Building, Metalworking Building, and the Trade Building. Each area has a different focus. The Invention Lab is focused on technology and inventing. It consists of a 6000 sq ft makerspace. It also consists of high-tech equipment such as laser engravers, 3D Printers, computerized embroidery machines, and more. The Program Building is focused on woodworking. Inside the Program Building is a full woodworking shop with all essential woodworking tools and a 5 x 8 ft CNC Router. The Metalworking Building is a full blacksmithing and welding shop, consisting of multiple forges, a power hammer, knifer sanders, and multiple welders. The Trades Building focuses on trades such as electricity, plumbing, automotive mechanics, boat repair, and more.

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI

The mission of the State Historical Society of Missouri (SHSMO) is to collect, preserve, publish, exhibit, and make available material related to all aspects and periods of Missouri history. SHSMO also seeks to generate interest in and appreciation of the rich cultural heritage of the state and its people through education and outreach.

WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME

The World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to building awareness of the cultural and artistic significance of chess. It opened on September 9, 2011, in Saint Louis' Central West End after moving from previous locations in New York; Washington, D.C.; and Florida. The WCHOF is located at 4652 Maryland Avenue, housed in a historic 15,900 square-foot residence-turned-business, featuring World Chess Hall of Fame inductees, United States Chess Hall of Fame inductees selected by the U.S. Chess Trust, displays of artifacts from the permanent collection and exhibitions highlighting the great players, historic games and rich cultural history of chess. The WCHOF partners with the Saint Louis Chess Club to provide innovative programming and outreach to local, national and international audiences. For more information, visit worldchesshof.org.

SAINT LOUIS CHESS CLUB

The Saint Louis Chess Club (STLCC) is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization that is committed to making chess an important part of our community. In addition to providing a forum for the community to play tournaments and casual games, the Club also offers chess improvement classes, beginner lessons and special lectures.

Recognizing the cognitive and behavioral benefits of chess, the Saint Louis Chess Club is committed to supporting those chess programs that already exist in area schools while encouraging the development of new in-school and after-school programs. For more information, visit saintlouischessclub.org.



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For more information about the Missouri Bicentennial Chessboard project, visit worldchesshof.org

